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Reports on the work of the Conference of European Statisticians, its Bureau and Teams of Specialists

Implementation of the UNECE Statistical Programme 2014

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The document provides a short summary of the implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical Programme 2014. The report is based on the information in an online reporting system, the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS), used within the United Nations secretariat.

The document is presented to the Conference of European Statisticians for approval. The Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the report in February 2015.

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I. Description of the main accomplishments in 2014

A. Coordination of international statistical work in the Economic Commission for Europe region

1. International statistical work was reviewed in depth in four statistical areas with the purpose to improve inter-agency coordination and eliminate overlaps and gaps in statistical activities in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. The four reviews addressed the following topics: (i) measuring social protection; (ii) leading, composite and sentiment indicators; (iii) population projections; and (iv) measuring extreme events and disasters. As a follow-up to these reviews, international task forces to improve statistics on population projections and use of official statistics in connection with extreme events and disasters is planned to be launched. A seminar on leading, composite and sentiment indicators will be held in 2015.

2. In 2014, 24 international organizations provided information on their statistical work programmes to the ECE Database on International Statistical Activities (DISA). The classification of International Statistical Activities, originally developed for the DISA database, is being used as a reference at global level, for example by the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) standard, Paris21, Global Inventory of Statistical Standards, FAO, and several countries. As a result of a review of DISA database in October 2014, the Bureau decided to launch an update of the classification. The classification will be adjusted to include emerging statistical areas, such as climate change-related statistics, composite indicators, geo-spatial data, etc.

B. Methodological work

3. In 2014, the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and its Bureau endorsed two methodological guidelines that were developed in cooperation with countries and partner organisations, such as Eurostat and OECD: *Gender equality indicators;* and *Recommendations on climate change-related statistics.* In addition, the *CES Recommendations on Measuring Sustainable Development,* endorsed in June 2013, were used in 2014 as a major input to the Open Working Group in developing the draft Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators.

5. Five draft CES recommendations were prepared in 2014 for endorsement by the Conference in 2015, namely on global production; statistical business registers; measuring quality of employment; socio-economic conditions of migrants; and recommendations for the 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

6. ECE undertook methodological work in 27 out of 55 statistical areas of the Classification of International Statistical Activities.

C. Capacity building

7. In 2014, ECE carried out 12 training workshops for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia with the support of the regular budget, the budget for technical cooperation, funding from the United Nations development account and external funding sources. In addition, a number of advisory missions were conducted at the request of countries.

8. These activities contributed to progress in areas identified for improvement in Global Assessments of national statistical systems in line with international statistical standards. Global Assessments analyse progress of countries with developing statistical systems in implementing international standards and compliance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. They are carried out at countries' request jointly with the Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the World Bank.

9. In total, 86 per cent of experts who took part in ECE training workshops considered the training to be of high quality and useful for their work.

D. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database

10. Progress was made in the availability of high quality macroeconomic, social and demographic statistics in the ECE statistical database. Availability of Millennium Development Goals' indicators and a migration clearinghouse for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia increases data use.

11. The timeliness, completeness, reliability and comparability of the statistical database were improved. In the end of 2014, in total 156 statistical time series were available in the database.

12. User satisfaction remained high, with an online survey indicating that 85 per cent of users considered the quality of data as excellent or good. In 2014, data downloads remained at the record levels of 2013, when data downloads had increased by one fifth. Automated processes and quality checks improved timeliness and reliability of data. The database also offers quick statistics, maps, graphs, country rankings and profiles.

II. Outputs prepared in 2014

A. Manuals, guidelines, recommendations, compilations of best practices

13. All manuals and guidelines are available at the following address: www.unece.org/statshome/publications-amp-resources/publications.html

(a) *CES Recommendations on Climate Change-Related Statistics*

15. The report presents recommendations that aim at improving existing official statistics to support climate change analysis and reporting on greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, and highlight areas where official statisticians can contribute with concrete actions.

(b) *Indicators of Gender Equality*

14. The publication responds to the need to monitor progress towards internationally agreed gender-related policy goals. It assesses indicators' suitability for describing major gender inequalities and for monitoring gender-relevant policies, and their regular availability and comparability across countries.

(c) *Final Report on Human Resources Management and Training*

15. A final report by the CES Steering Group on human resources management and training provides an overview of work done, and a proposal how the work on human resources could support the modernisation of statistical production and services.

(d) *Countries in figures 2015, Europe, Central Asia, North America*

16. The publication presents a set of social and economic indicators for each of the 56 UNECE member countries based on the data available in the ECE Statistical Database.

(e) *Measurement of Socio-Economic Conditions of Migrants* (to be submitted to CES in 2015)

17. This publication provides guidelines to countries intending to produce statistics on socio-economic conditions of migrants using existing sources or ad hoc surveys. It harmonises the definitions and describes practices adopted by countries.

(f) *Handbook on Measuring Quality of Employment* (to be submitted to CES in 2015)

18. The handbook provides practical recommendations to developed and developing countries interested in measuring the quality of employment.

(g) *Guide to Measuring Global Production* (to be submitted to CES in 2015)

19. The Guide deals with global production arrangements that challenge the compilation of economic statistics. The Guide clarifies typology, concepts and definitions of global production and provides guidance in related data collection issues.

(h) *International Guidelines on Statistical Business registers* (to be submitted to CES in 2015)

20. The Guidelines provide recommendations for developing and maintaining statistical business registers, increasing the efficiency of the statistical production processes and improving comparability of business statistics with business registers.

(i) *Recommendations for the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses* (to be submitted to CES in 2015)

21. The Recommendations provide the basis for collecting reliable, accurate and comparable census data on a core set of census topics, and for harmonizing definitions and classifications.

B. Global Assessments of national statistical systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia

22. The Global Assessment of the national statistical system of Mongolia was carried out in 2014, in collaboration with Eurostat, EFTA and the World Bank. ECE also consulted Turkmenistan in their Self-Global Assessment in the course of 2014. Four member States developed a national strategy for sustainable development of statistics in line with recommendations contained in Global Assessments, carried out previously.

23. To address member States' requests for assistance in implementing the recommendations, ECE will start in 2015 with its partners "rotating scheme assessments" and a capacity-building project tailored for the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in 2014-2017.

C. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Statistical database

24. The statistical database is available at: http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/, providing:

- Macroeconomic data (national accounts main aggregates, industrial production, labour force, wages, price indices, purchasing power parities, exchange rates, balance of payments, external debt);
- Social and demographic data with gender breakdown (population, fertility, families and households, work and the economy, education, public life and decision making, health and mortality, crime and violence, science and ICT, and life balance);
- Regional MDG database covering all 8 Millennium Development Goals for more than 30 countries;
- Transport and forestry statistics provided by other UNECE Divisions;
- Clearinghouse for migration statistics for the CIS countries.

D. Websites and wikis maintained by the UNECE Statistical Division

- UNECE Statistical Division's website: www.unece.org/stats
- Database of International Statistical Activities (DISA): www.unece.org/ DISA
- Statistical database website: http://w3.unece.org/pxweb/
- UNECE Data Locator: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/DLoc/Welcome+to+the+UNECE+Data+Locator
- Gender statistics website with multimedia training videos: www.unece.org/stats/gender.html
- Library of training materials on statistics: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/train
- Wikis and knowledge bases on different subjects: www1.unece.org/stat/platform/dashboard.action
    - 2008 System of National Accounts implementation
    - Price index Processor software
    - Active Ageing Index
    - Human resources management and training in statistical offices
    - Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
    - Measuring violence against women
    - Population and Housing Censuses - several wikis for Task Forces
    - High-Level Group for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services
    - Big Data in Official Statistics
    - Virtual Standards Helpdesk – a one-stop shop on standards for modernisation
    - Statistical metadata (METIS), including the Common Metadata Framework
    - Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM)
    - Generic Statistical Information Model (GSIM)
    - Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations (GAMSO)
    - Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS)

- Dissemination and communication
- Statistical Literacy
- Managing Statistical Confidentiality and Microdata Access
- Administrative and Secondary Sources in Statistics (ASSIST)
- Data collection – sharing resources and experiences
- K-base: Data editing knowledge base
- Statistical Network
- Several wikis for active Task Forces, modernisation committees and one for the CES Bureau

III. List of meetings organized in 2014

25. Documents for public meetings are available at: www.unece.org/statistics/meetings-and-events.html. In 2014, the UNECE Statistical Division organised 50 expert meetings presented in the table below.

No.	*Meeting (venue)*	*Date*	*Capacity Building*
1	CES Bureau meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)	28-29 January 2014	
2	Meeting of the High-Level Group (HLG) Executive Board, back-to-back with the UN Statistical Commission (New York, USA)	2 March 2014	
3	Meeting of the HLG for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services	5 March 2014	
4	Virtual Sprint on Big Data Project	10-13 March 2014	
5	Workshop on Gender Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-18 March 2014	X
6	Work Session on Gender Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	19-21 March 2014	
7	Workshop on Big Data (Rome, Italy)	2-3 April 2014	
8	62nd plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians (Paris, France) and back-to-back meeting of the HLG for the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services	9-11 April 2014	
9	Management of Statistical Information Systems, held jointly with Eurostat and OECD (Dublin, Ireland)	14-16 April 2014	
10	Workshop on Big Data Sandbox (Dublin, Ireland)	16 April 2014	
11	Task Force on Business Registers, back-to-back with the Eurostat Working Group on business registers (Luxembourg)	28 April 2014	
12	Work Session on Statistical Data Editing (Paris, France)	28-30 April 2014	
13	Group of Experts on National Accounts, jointly with Eurostat and OECD, and back-to-back meetings of the Steering Group on National Accounts and Task Force on Global Production (Geneva, Switzerland)	6-9 May 2014	
14	Task Force on Global Production, back-to-back with the Group of Experts on National Accounts (Geneva, Switzerland)	9 May 2014	
15	Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	13-15 May 2014	X
16	Group of Experts on Consumer Price Indices, jointly	26-28 May 2014	

No.	Meeting (venue)	Date	Capacity Building
	with ILO (Geneva, Switzerland)		
17	Big Data Sandbox Workshop (Rome, Italy)	28-30 May 2014	
18	Task Force on Measuring Human Capital (Geneva, Switzerland)	2-3 June 2014	
19	Workshop on Modernization of Statistics, jointly with Rosstat and EFTA (Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation)	10-12 June 2014	X
20	Work Session on the Communication of Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-20 June 2014	
21	9th SPECA Project Working Group on Statistics (Baku, Azerbaijan)	25-27 June 2014	X
22	Meeting of the Modernisation Committee on Organisational Frameworks and Evaluation (The Hague, Netherlands)	8-9 July 2014	
23	Strategic Management Seminar on Quality Frameworks, jointly with Eurostat and EFTA (Becici/Budva, Montenegro)	10-11 July 2014	X
24	Workshop on Migration Statistics, and back-to-back meeting of the Steering Group on migration statistics (Chişinău, Moldova)	8-9 September 2014	X
25	Big Data Project Workshop (Heerlen, Netherlands)	9-12 September 2014	
26	Work Session on Migration Statistics, and back-to-back meeting of Task Force on Circular Migration (Chişinău, Moldova)	10-12 September 2014	
27	Expert Group on Measuring Quality of Employment (Berlin, Germany)	10-11 September 2014	
28	Task Force on Business Registers, back-to-back with the Meeting of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers (Vienna, Austria)	15 September 2014	
29	Virtual Sprint on Big Data Input Quality	15-16 September 2014	
30	Workshop on Population and Housing Censuses (Geneva, Switzerland)	22 September 2014	X
31	Virtual Sprint on Big Data Output Quality	22-23 September 2014	
32	Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses, jointly with Eurostat (Geneva, Switzerland)	23-26 September 2014	
33	Seminar on Global Assessments for the development of national statistical systems, jointly with Eurostat, EFTA and ESCAP (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia)	1-3 October 2014	X
34	Independent Expert Advisory Group meeting on MDG indicators, jointly with UNSD and ILO (Geneva, Switzerland)	7-9 October 2014	
35	Consultative Meeting on Data Revolution for Development with the Independent Expert Advisory Group (hosted by UNECE) (Geneva, Switzerland)	8 October 2014	
36	Workshop on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (Valletta, Malta)	9-10 October 2014	
37	Meeting of the Modernisation Committee on Organisational Frameworks and Evaluation	14 October 2014	
38	Workshop on Human Resources Management and Training in Statistical Offices (Geneva, Switzerland) and back-to-back the Steering Group on Human Resources, Management and Training	15-17 October 2014	

No.	*Meeting (venue)*	*Date*	*Capacity Building*
39	CES Bureau meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)	21-22 October 2014	
40	Workshop on Air Quality and Emissions Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	3 November 2014	X
41	9th Joint Task Force on Environmental Indicators (Geneva, Switzerland)	4-5 November 2014	X
42	Steering Group on National Accounts and Task Force on Global Production, back-to-back with the OECD Working Party on National Accounts (Paris, France)	6-7 November 2014	
43	Inter-regional workshop on good practices in gender statistics (Aguascalientes, Mexico)	5-7 November 2014	X
44	ENBES Workshop on the Unit Problem in Business Statistics (hosted by UNECE) (Geneva, Switzerland)	11 November 2014	
45	Statistical Network Steering Committee (hosted by UNECE) (Geneva, Switzerland)	17-18 November 2014	
46	Task Force on Ageing-related Statistics (Geneva, Switzerland)	18-19 November 2014	
47	Workshop on the modernisation of statistical production and services (Geneva, Switzerland), with back-to-back meetings of the Modernisation Committees on Production and Methods; Products and Sources; Standards, the HLG on the Modernisation of Statistical Production and Services, and the HLG Executive Board	19-21 November 2014	
48	Workshop on the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (Tallinn, Estonia)	2-4 December 2014	
49	Kick-off workshop of a new project aiming at sustainable development of statistics (Almaty, Kazakhstan)	10-11 December 2014	X
50	Workshop on developing entrepreneurship statistics by gender (Yerevan, Armenia)	16-17 December 2014	X